

**Virginia Advisory Committee for the Education of the Gifted**  
**Maggie L. Walker Governor's School**  
**Richmond, Virginia**  
**May 2, 2003**

VACEG Chair G. Hubbard called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Chair Hubbard introduced D. Hunt, Director of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, who welcomed VACEG members to the school and spoke briefly about the school for government and international studies.

Chair Hubbard thanked D. Hunt for the welcome and information. T. Douglas moved approval of the agenda and E. Daniels seconded the motion. The agenda was approved. Minutes of the VACEG April meeting were read. E. Brown moved approval of the minutes and E. Daniels seconded. The minutes were approved as amended. Chair Hubbard appointed S. Wadsworth timekeeper and N. Ballinger process observer for the meeting.

VACEG Board members attending the meeting included: Chair G. Hubbard, Past Chair T. Douglas, N. Ballinger, E. Brown, E. Daniels, J. Leslie, E. Snyder, Dr. R. Turner, S. Wadsworth, VDOE Liaison B. McGonagill, and J. Marler. J. Robinson visited the VACEG Board meeting.

Chair Hubbard led discussion about VACEG subcommittees (Identification Subcommittee and Staff Development Subcommittee). E. Daniels is chair of the Identification Subcommittee, and N. Ballinger agreed to serve as chair of the Staff Development Subcommittee. The committee of the whole voiced the idea that some school divisions, especially small school divisions and/or rural school divisions might benefit from specific, new guidance in identifying gifted students (especially the hard-to-find gifted student) and from action which could secure appropriate, meaningful staff development options.

Chair Hubbard assigned subcommittees to work in their respective topic areas from 10:00 am until 11:45 am, advising committee members to take note of the VACEG 19th Annual Report, the VACEG 20<sup>th</sup> Interim Report, and the proposed VACEG 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Report.

During 2002-2003, the VACEG Board focused attention on two aspects of gifted education:

- 1) Identification of gifted students, especially the hard-to-find-gifted and
- 2) Appropriate and meaningful staff development for teachers of gifted students.

Proposed topics for VACEG Board attention in the 2003-2004 academic year are

- 1) Delivery of services to gifted students and

2) Parent/community involvement in support of gifted students.

A theme suggested for the 2003-2004 academic year could be "Pathways to Excellence".

Three VACEG subcommittees met to discuss information:

- Identification subcommittee
- Staff development subcommittee
- Nominations subcommittee

After the work session, chairs of VACEG subcommittees reported the results of the group discussions.

1) Nominations subcommittee reported that the following nominations for VACEG membership would be taken to the VBOE in July:

- At-Large Member 2003-2004...no action taken at this time
- Academic-Year Governor's School 2003-2006...C. Cottrell
- Chamber of Commerce 2003-2006...Chamber contacted, no response to date
- Consortium 2002-2003...N. Ballinger
- Fine Arts Representative 2003-2004...No action taken at this time
- Gifted Education Coordinator 2003-2006...R. Grillo
- Governor's Schools Alumna/us 2003-2006...None/organization is still being established
- Higher Education 2003-2006...M. Hall-Haley
- Local Advisory Committee 2003-2006... E. Mebane
- Local Parent Association 2003-2006... L. Frye
- Teacher of the Gifted 2003-2006... P. Lynch
- Elementary School Principals 2003-2004...T. Shortt

2) Staff development subcommittee reported recommendations after reviewing information in VACEG's professional development draft matrix.

- Provide to school divisions the *professional development template* as a structure to facilitate the integration of gifted professional development experiences within the context of general education professional development experiences as outlined through state and federal initiatives, such as NCLB, SOAs, etc.
- Monitor designation of an administrator of a school division's gifted education program through the Annual Report of Services for Gifted Students
- Monitor endorsement of administrators of gifted education programs through the Annual Report of Services for Gifted Students
- Continue to monitor training and endorsement of gifted education resource teachers and professional development for classroom teachers through the Annual Report of Services for Gifted Students
- Revisit regional support for professional development in gifted education in light of the loss of the Best Practice Centers and other mechanisms, knowing that resource identification is a key issue for staff development.

3) Identification subcommittee reported recommendations after reviewing information in VACEG's identification draft matrix.

- Provide for early and ongoing identification of students in relation to gifted programs/services
- Provide for re-evaluation of need for appropriate services for gifted services
- Develop an adequate screening pool, a reasonable reflection of the population from which the candidates for gifted services are selected, based upon area demographics.

Chair Hubbard thanked the subcommittees for their accomplishments during the work session and reminded the board that VACEG's Twenty-First Annual Report would be delivered at the July 23, 2003, meeting of the Virginia Board of Education in Richmond. Chair Hubbard introduced Margaret Roberts who serves as the department's liaison to the Virginia Board of Education. M. Roberts brought greetings from the BOE and honored VACEG Past Chair T. Douglas by sharing stories of their early days in public education.

M. Roberts also read a resolution from the BOE in honor of T. Douglas for service to public education in Virginia and presented the BOE resolution in presence of the VACEG Board.

Chair Hubbard recessed the VACEG Board for lunch, which was prepared and provided by students from Henrico County High School, led by culinary specialist D. Bates.

Chair Hubbard reconvened the VACEG Board for the work session, after lunch.

Commonwealth Governor's School Director S. Wadsworth expressed appreciation for service on the VACEG Board and thanked the board for working to impact the lives of young people through education and for working to imbue them with a strong sense of ethics.

Chair Hubbard called on VDOE Liaison B. McGonagill for the report from the Virginia Department of Education. B. McGonagill reported

- Virginia's General Assembly neared full funding for Virginia's Academic Year Governor's Schools in the 2003 session.
- Summer Regional Governor's Schools directors met in February 2003, to discuss the effectiveness of present programs and to consider redesigning aspects of some programs to address changes. Virginia's Department of Education is open to changes, if the changes meet the needs of the gifted student population.
- Two full-site evaluations were conducted in 2003: Commonwealth Governor's School and Shenandoah Valley Governor's School. Evaluators worked, in a team approach, with Governor's School directors to redesign the evaluation rubric for greater effectiveness.
- D. Hocutt and B. McGonagill have worked on an electronic application for GS.
- Adjudication for GS applicants is scheduled for University of Richmond (Jan 10, 2004), Emory & Henry College (Jan 17, 2004), and George Mason University (Jan 24, 2004).
- Training for Virginia's new coordinators of gifted education will be scheduled for early September, and VACEG's document will be used as a helpful frame of reference.

- Virginia is considering applying for a Jacob Javits grant to study and propose alternative strategies for the identification of children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Chair Hubbard called for representatives of professional organizations for reports.

- Virginia School Boards Association...(E. Daniels) No report.
- Consortium ...(N. Ballinger) Full Consortium meets Oct. 3, 2003.
- Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals...(T. Douglas) No report.
- Virginia Governor's Schools...(S. Wadsworth) GS directors meet on May 14, 2003. Plans for developing a statewide parent advocacy group for support of gifted education are being discussed. Maggie L. Walker Governor's School facilitated this plan.
- Virginia Business...(E. Snyder) No report.
- Virginia Association for the Gifted...(E. Brown) VAG leaders met in January, in Richmond, to lobby for support of gifted education. The VAG Conference will be held in Williamsburg, VA, from Nov.6-8, 2003. The main focus is the "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Speakers include Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, Sally Reis, Deb Burns, & Jann Leppien.
- Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals...(J. Leslie) The VASSP Conference will be held July 21-25, 2003. Plans include strategies to deal with dissonance between AP and IB.
- Northern Virginia Council for Gifted Education...(G. Hubbard) The spring conference, which was planned for 500 educators, attracted 850 educators. Event planners and food service workers made the event successful, with creativity, and without overflow difficulties.

Chair Hubbard called for the VACEG Board to set the calendar for 2003-2004.

Meetings for the 2003-2004 year were set tentatively.

- Sept. 26, 2003...Richmond area (possibly University of Richmond or Math & Science Center)
- Nov. 21, 2003... Possible Governor's school visit
- March 5, 2004...Possible Governor's School visit or Richmond area
- May 21, 2004...Richmond area or possible Governor's School visit

Chair Hubbard called for the VACEG Nominating Committee's report for VACEG officers.

- VACEG Chair C. Cottrell...2003-2005
- VACEG Vice-Chair J. Leslie...2003-2004
- VACEG Secretary J. Marler...2003-2005

E. Brown moved the slate of officers, and E. Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

Public comment. Visitor J. Robinson stated that more visitors should come to see what happens at VACEG Board meetings, because gifted education in Virginia is in good hands.

Chair Hubbard passed leadership of VACEG to VACEG Vice-Chair J. Leslie, who accepted on behalf of C. Cottrell, who could not attend the meeting. T. Douglas moved for adjournment, and E. Daniels seconded. The VACEG meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm. Dr. R Turner commended Chair G. Hubbard with the words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."